

10/032090

P21634.S03

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Process for conditioning a circulating felt belt of a machine, pipe suction apparatus and traversing pipe suction apparatus therefor, the process including performing a zonal conditioning of a plurality of zones across a width of the felt belt by measuring at least one of, fibrous material web cross direction profile; felt belt cross direction profile; and permeability of the felt belt across the width of at least one of the web and the belt. The felt belt is conditioned depending on measuring results obtained for a respective zone. The pipe suction apparatus includes a ceramic body extending at least essentially across the entire width of the felt belt, the ceramic body being provided with a slotted surface by way of which the felt belt is subjectable to vacuum, with a respective effective amount of slotted surface being zonally variably adjustable by way of movable tongues.

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